

## Howe: Najibullah should step down

NEW DELHI (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Afghan President Najibullah Friday to step down in favour of a broad-based government in Kabul. He told a news conference the vast majority of world opinion wanted an end to the Soviet-backed Kabul government that Moscow has kept in place for 10 years. "The Najibullah government should step aside and make way for a fully representative government," he said. Following the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan last month, Howe said, the Afghan people need time to establish a government acceptable to all. But he poured cold water on further United Nations involvement in the conflict, saying it was important the U.N. did not give Kabul an opportunity to regain ground lost to rebels. Both the Afghan government and the Soviet Union have urged the United Nations to post military personnel on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan were many of the Mujahideen fighters are based. Moscow, which has repeatedly accused Pakistan of sending troops into Afghanistan to bolster Mujahideen efforts to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad, hinted Wednesday that it wanted a stronger peacekeeping role for the U.N.

# Jordan Times

An independent English-language political daily published by the Jordan Times Foundation

جورдан تايمز فونداسيون سهامي عن المؤسسة الجordanية للطباعة والنشر

Volume 14 Number 4050

AMMAN SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989, SHABAAN 25, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## U.S. congressman ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens left Amman Friday after a three-day visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and government officials.

King Hussein and Owens Thursday discussed the efforts currently underway to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international peace conference.

The audience was attended by the American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth.

Owens told the Associated Press he hoped his idea for a Middle East Development Bank might "push the peace process along" and contribute to stability and prosperity.

He said he had met enthusiastic response but also the "almost unanimous judgment you're not going to get any real cooperation between the Arab states, except for Egypt, in anything that involves Israel until you have a peace process going and probably a peace settlement."

He said funding might come from both private and public sources, possibly government-guaranteed bonds.

He conceded it would be "really tough" to find projects in the current atmosphere of tension and technical war between the Israelis and most Arabs.

But he said it might initially be aimed at projects involving informal cooperation.

He said a conference might be held later this year in the United States to help solidify the idea.

Owens also said he had proposed earmarking \$85 million in U.S. foreign grant aid to Jordan for fiscal year 1990 — a significant increase in the current aid level. He said he had found "widespread support for it."



Lebanese firemen fight blazing fuel tanks in east Beirut

## 2 tremors hit eastern part of Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — Two earthquakes measuring 5 and 3.7 on the Richter Scale shook the eastern parts of Jordan Friday morning, according to the Royal Scientific Society's Seismological Centre.

The first, measuring 5 degrees on the Richter Scale was felt at 02.43 while the second was felt at 03.43 Friday morning.

The earthquake's epicentre was 160 kilometres east of Amman. However citizens felt the first quake in various parts of the country, particularly in the eastern parts.

No damage was reported as a result of both tremors.

Faisal Sayar, seismologist at the Royal Scientific Society, told the Associated Press the main quake was centred close to Amman and lasted almost six seconds.

Sayar said the second was centred in the Wadi Sirhan area, a sparsely populated desert region near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border.

"We consider this earthquake a less than moderate one," he said.

Sayar said Friday's quake was the area's strongest since a temblor recorded at 5.1 Richter struck south of Aqaba in the Red Sea on New Year's eve 1985.

He said an earthquake of 6.2 to 7 on the Richter Scale occurs in the region on an average of every 34 years and last happened in 1927.

"Within 10 years, plus or minus, we could have another one here," he said.

The Richter Scale calculates energy released by an earthquake as measured by ground motion.

An earthquake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage and an earthquake measuring 5 on the scale can cause considerable damage.

## Iraqis elect 250-member National Assembly today

to approve the referendum result.

There are more independents among the 952 candidates, many of them Gulf war veterans, than in any of the two previous parliamentary elections held since June 1980. The Baath held 133 seats in the last assembly.

Saturday has been declared a national holiday to maximise voting, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) and close at 8 p.m.

Each of the main 950 polling centres will be supervised by a five-man election committee headed by a judge.

Officials said poor communications and the high illiteracy rate in rural areas will mean that many voters there will not cast ballots. Voting is not mandatory.

In the last elections in October 1984, 7,171,000 votes were recorded.

The elections were originally scheduled for Aug. 30, but were postponed until March 3 after the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the war with Iran. They were again postponed until April 1 to "allow more independents to run."

Two hundred sixty of the candidates are Baath Party members, but party officials stressed that none was an official Baath candidate.

"They're running on their own merits," one official noted.

Only 29 of the 250 members of the last National Assembly are running. Many deputies were eliminated by party caucuses from running because the Baath's grassroots sought to inject younger members into the assembly, officials reported.

## Central Committee to name Arafat president

TUNIS (Agencies) — The PLO's Central Committee met Friday to endorse the nomination of Yasser Arafat as president of a provisional government of the Palestinian state.

The PLO Executive Committee nominated Arafat for the post Tuesday, subject to an endorsement by the 70-member Central Committee expected sometime during the weekend.

The PLO's supreme body, the Palestine National Council, proclaimed an independent state at its Algiers meeting last Nov. 15, but left it up to the Central Committee to establish an exile government.

There was no other candidate for the Palestinian presidency. The current session of the Executive Committee was also expected to approve the appointment of Farouk Kaddoumi as Foreign Minister of the Palestinian government in exile.

The government headed by Arafat will exercise its function "until the Palestinian people can freely elect a government at the end of the Israeli occupation," PLO spokesman Riad Al-Hassan said.

He said the government has been recognised as the legitimate Palestinian representative by about 60 nations.

Al-Hassan also said Arafat would travel to Paris at the end of April to meet President Francois Mitterrand, who has announced he would meet the PLO leader but not make public the date.

The PLO's diplomatic mission in Paris was raised to a "general representation" on French initiative at the beginning of the year.

Arafat took part in a rally organised in Tunis Thursday night to mark the "Day of the Land."

"We are not making war for war's sake," he told the crowd. "We are struggling for the political objective of our people: Establish the national authority on every part of the Palestinian territory liberated or evacuated by Israel."

Meanwhile Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Friday the decision by Mitterrand to meet Arafat was a positive step.

Speaking to reporters after lunching with Mitterrand in Paris, Gonzalez said: "There is a pressing need to support the moderate (Palestinian) line represented by Arafat... not to do so would be an error on the part of the West."

## Fire continues to blaze at Dora fuel depot

## Lebanese strike in Falangist enclave over battle carnage

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners skirmished with mortars in Beirut Friday, killing one man and wounding another, as a burning fuel depot spewed black clouds into the clear Mediterranean sky.

The casualties raised the toll to 126 people killed and 406 wounded since March 8, when the current round of violence pitted Gen. Michel Aoun's army units against an alliance of Syrian forces and militiamen of Druse Warlord Walid Junhah's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Meanwhile, fires continued to blaze at Beirut's main fuel depot in the district of Dora amid fears of renewed butane gas explosions. Fire trucks poured water into the area around the clock to keep the flames from leaping into the surrounding area.

Residents of the Falangist enclave also staged a general strike to protest ferocious Syrian shelling barrages.

The strike, called by the Lebanese Front Alliance of Falangists and allies, also paralysed life in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" of South Lebanon which supports the Falangists against Syria.

The Lebanese Front, in a statement, called on the "free world to prevent the way of annihilation Syria is launching against the

Lebanese people."

A police spokesman said the Falangist enclave, a 800-square-kilometre crescent-shaped strip north east of Beirut, was like a "plague-stricken area" Friday.

"Nothing moved in the streets of east Beirut and the rest of the Christian enclave except for fire engines that maintained a round-the-clock water shower on gas tanks at the blazing fuel depot in Dora to keep them cool and prevent further lethal explosions," he said.

The spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said civil defence teams evacuated another 100,000 people from residential areas to avoid civilian casualties in case of explosions.

That brought to about 150,000 the overall number of people evacuated since a major butane gas explosion wounded 14 people Thursday.

"Hundreds of tons of butane and other types of gas remain in tanks near the fire. The only thing anyone can do is to keep them cool and prevent the blaze from spreading to them," said the

spokesman.

Palls of thick black smoke rose from the depot, which initially caught fire at 8:30 a.m. forming a huge mushroom cloud over the city.

Butane leaking from tanks Thursday caught fire from Syrian rockets and exploded with a concussion that shattered glass within a five-kilometre radius.

Meanwhile, the independent daily paper An Nahar said Aoun discussed the situation in Lebanon in telephone contacts with several Arab leaders.

The paper said Aoun's cabinet was considering forming a delegation to tour Arab and foreign capitals to call for "saving Lebanon."

A Falangist source close to Aoun, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team is to be formed early next week to "try to convince the world to pressure Syria into withdrawing its troops from Lebanon, even gradually."

Syria, with 40,000 troops deployed in predominantly Muslim areas of Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League, is the main power broker in Lebanon.

Aoun and other Falangist leaders accuse the Syrians of failing to achieve their peacekeeping mandate by siding with the opposition against the Falangists in the 14-year-old civil war that has

claimed at least 130,000 lives.

Maj.-Gen. Sami Khatib, a Sunnī Muslim who heads the 22,000-strong Syrian-backed predominantly Muslim army units, said in a statement published Friday that Aoun was to be court-martialed.

Khatib, a figurehead who does not carry real weight, accused Aoun of usurping the post of prime minister and "exercising political, military and information activity that has caused divisions in popular ranks."

The Lebanese political crisis decayed sharply on Sept. 22, when President Amin Gemayel named Aoun head of an interim military cabinet to rule pending the election by parliament of a new head of state.

Syria and its Lebanese allies rejected Aoun's appointment because it violated a 1943 unwritten covenant that gave the presidency to the Sunnis, the presidency to the Maronites and the house speakership to the Shiites.

The present confrontation broke out March 8 when Aoun ordered a blockade of militia-run ports. Syrian forces, Khatib's troops and allied militiamen responded by blockading the Falangist enclave.

The blockade of the enclave was eased Friday.

## 8 Palestinians shot by Israelis as U.S. urges troops to pull out of Arab cities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Friday shot and wounded eight Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy from the West Bank's Faru Refugee Camp in the occupied Arab territories, Arab hospital officials said.

Three other Arabs were shot and wounded in the West Bank and a 14-year-old girl, also from Faru, suffered a broken hand when she was beaten by Israeli soldiers, hospital officials said.

In the Gaza Strip four Palestinians were wounded after a clash between troops and protesters.

The clashes erupted after the army eased restrictions on Palestinians, permitting traffic to limited self-rule for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to newspaper reports published Friday.

"Under certain circumstances, I will not rule out elections," the daily Yedioh Ahronot quoted Shamir as saying. "The character of elections should be negotiated with the Americans."

Both the elections idea and the proposals for limited self-rule are derived from the 1978 Camp David agreements between Israel and Egypt. The new element is Shamir's readiness to hold elections before self-rule is negotiated.

"(Shamir) is finally joining the

camp. It makes four of them now and here we have a consensus. This is important because it makes a positive step towards creating a dialogue with the residents of the territories," said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Certainly that's what they (U.S. officials) are hoping for," said an Arab diplomat familiar with the proposal.

"They are hoping that if the Israelis pull out some of their troops, the PLO would respond by saying the uprising would slow down a little bit," said the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous.

The White House, the State Department and the Israeli embassy had no immediate comment.

Meanwhile a poll for Israel's largest peace movement indicated Friday that two-thirds of Israelis favoured talks with the PLO if it recognised the Jewish state's right to secure borders and cease terrorist acts.

It was the largest share of support.

Meguid welcomed the nomination of PLO leader Yasser Arafat as head of the state declared by the Palestinians last November.

He said the news conference that Egypt would definitely attend the next regular Arab summit meeting.

He did not give a date for the meeting, the first to be attended by Egypt since it was ostracised by most Arab states for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

But he said Egypt's readmission to the Arab League would be the first item on the agenda.

King Fahd and Mubarak urged calm in Lebanon, where some of the worst fighting of the 14-year civil war has erupted in the past two weeks. They praised the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and called for a complete and just settlement of the conflict.

The statement said Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a joint committee to increase cooperation in several specific fields, including trade, transport, insurance and cultural relations.

Later Friday King Fahd left Cairo for home.

Mubarak saw King Fahd off at Cairo Airport, where the visit began Monday.

CAIRO (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak prayed together at Cairo's famous Al Azhar Mosque Friday at the climax of a four-day royal visit that set the seal on Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

"I have known the current American President George Bush for about 15 years and I know well that he is a far-sighted thinker," King Fahd was quoted as telling the editors.

The Saudi monarch also said he would be willing to help fund the reconstruction of an Iraqi nuclear reactor destroyed by Israeli jets in 1981. But he added that Saudi Arabia's support was for peaceful purposes only.

"Why should Israel get angry?" he said in response to a question. "Let for military uses those in Israel or the other which we said we would help reconstruct."

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied reports that it has built nuclear bombs.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmael Abdul Meguid said Friday Egypt did not accept any threats from Israel. "This is totally rejected," he said, answering a question about Israel's possible

Both Prince Faisal and Abdul

## 'Soldiers of Truth' claim Brussels mosque killings

BEIRUT (AP) — A Muslim fundamentalist group holding a Belgian doctor in Lebanon Friday claimed it killed a Saudi Arabian clergyman and his Tunisian aide in Brussels.

The group, Jund Al-Haq, which is Arabic for Soldiers of Truth, "declares responsibility for carrying out God's verdict on traitors Abdalh Abdal and Salim Behir," a type-written statement said.

The statement, delivered to the office of the independent news paper An Nahar in Beirut, claimed the two were killed for

carrying out "destructive and anti-Islamic activities through maintaining contacts with the Israeli (intelligence service) Mossad."

The group threatened, without elaboration, that it will "implement just punishment" against anyone for "promoting Israel's policies."

Ahdal, 36, was the Imam of the

Brussels mosque. Behir, 40, a Tunisian, supervised the mosque's social service and library.

The two were shot Wednesday in Abdal's office inside the mosque, near the European Community's (EC) headquarters.

A Brussels police spokesman said that Abdal had received threats after making a statement on Belgian television about British author Salman Rushdie and his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Feb. 14 issued a death order against Rushdie for allegedly defaming

Islam in the book.

Soldiers of Justice was first heard of Dec. 18, 1988 when it issued a statement claiming the kidnapping of Belgian physician Jan Cools whom it said was "a spy working for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)."

Cools, 32, who worked for the Norwegian aid committee, NORWAC, went missing after leaving his clinic in South Lebanon's Palestinian Refugee camp of Rashidiyah last May 21.

Meanwhile Muslims in Belgium were urged to stay calm Thursday after the killings.

Vice Premier Willy Claes said the imam, Abdalh Abdal, was threatened March 24 for opposing the Khomeini death sentence.

"The Islamic world is deeply divided," over the Feb. 14 death sentence, Claes told reporters.

He said the phone threat Abdal received "clearly referred to the moderate viewpoints of the imam," yet he did not exclude other motives for the death of Abdal, such as racism.

But sources said there had been tensions of late within the 225,000-strong Muslim commun-

ity in Belgium and that Abdal had clashed with dissenters over the Rushdie affair only hours before he was killed.

Police said they were shot at close range with a single gun hitting the two in the head and chest.

They said there was no sign of a struggle and that Abdal was on the phone when he was shot.

Abdal was killed just over five weeks after he distanced himself from Khomeini's death sentence in an interview on Belgian television.

Meanwhile, in Belgium, the



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**1989 MIDDLE EAST MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE**

## Ozal reshuffles cabinet

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal sacrificed his brother in a sweeping cabinet reshuffle Friday after his ruling Motherland Party suffered a crushing defeat in nationwide municipal polls.

Ozal replaced 15 of 22 cabinet ministers, with liberals heavily outweighing representatives of the conservative wing of the Motherland Party. Three ministers changed portfolios.

State Minister Ali Bozer became deputy prime minister, but the most prominent change was the resignation of State Minister Yusuf Ozal, the prime minister's younger brother who had been in charge of the economy since December 1987.

"Yusuf knows the economy very well. But unfortunately the press has blown up a story about a family dynasty that has influenced public opinion," Ozal told reporters.

President Kenan Evren approved the new cabinet, which now includes 25 members excluding the prime minister after the filling of three new posts.

The reshuffle follows Ozal's Motherland Party defeat in last Sunday's municipal elections in which it won only two of 67 provincial capitals and polled only 21.9 per cent of the vote.

Ozal said he would decide later if and when to call an early general election and said the new cabinet would meet to discuss a probable vote of confidence in parliament next week.

"This is a Motherland cabinet that presents a picture of unity... to go on until 1992," Ozal said, adding that he would directly take over the economic reins of the country.

Ozal said the Central Bank would be freed to pursue tight monetary policies to fight inflation, now running at 72 per cent and seen as a key factor in Ozal's local poll defeat.

Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, seen as a prominent liberal and possible future Motherland leader, stayed on in the new cabinet, as did Labour Minister Ilmen Aykut.

The ministers dropped included a cousin of Ozal, Agriculture Minister Huseyin Dogan, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan, dogged by corruption allegations, and State Minister Adnan Kahveci, in charge of flagging plans to privatise the state-dominated economy.

The changes were apparently aimed at defusing mounting criticisms of Ozal's party over alleged nepotism, corruption and economic mismanagement.

MP detained after killing colleague

Meanwhile, a deputy from Turkey's ruling party was in police custody Thursday after an opposition member was shot and killed in a corridor of Ankara's parliament building.

Abdurezzak Ceylan was shot Wednesday amid increased tensions in parliament following a crushing defeat for Ozal in municipal elections last Sunday.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Canada-PLO official meeting

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Canada's U.N. envoy met a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Thursday, "barely an hour" after the Ottawa government announced it was ending restrictions on such contacts. Ambassador Yves Fortier had a 20-minute general discussion on the Middle East with Nasser Al Kidwa, the PLO's deputy U.N. observer, at the Canadian U.N. mission. At a joint news conference, Al Kidwa said he hoped for further contacts at the highest possible level including one "in the near future... between the Prime Minister of Canada and the chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat." Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced earlier in Ottawa that Canada was ending restrictions on official meetings with PLO representatives and had endorsed the principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people, to be exercised through peace negotiations.

### Morocco opposition head arrested

RABAT (R) — Opposition leader Mohammad Ait Khaddour was arrested on his return to Morocco this week after 15 years in exile, the socialist daily Al Ittihad Ishtiraki said Friday. The paper said Khaddour, sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment in 1971 for his part in a plot to overthrow King Hassan, was arrested in Casablanca after arriving from Paris. He had planned to attend a congress in Rabat of Morocco's main opposition party the Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires. A government spokesman said he could neither confirm nor deny the report.

### Mujahedeen need more financial aid

ABU DHABI (AP) — An Afghan rebel leader said Friday that the Mujahedeen need more financial backing in order to overthrow the communist government following the Soviet military pull-out from Afghanistan. Jalaluddin Hakkani, a guerrilla commander in the eastern Pakista province, told reporters that funds also were essential to reconstruct war-damaged areas and resettle refugees. "Muslim countries which were providing us with financial and political support during the war with the Soviets, thought that fighting had stopped with the withdrawal of the Soviets. Hakkani said he came to the United Arab Emirates from Saudi Arabia seeking increased aid for the Mujahedeen and to urge the UAE to recognise their interim government formed two months ago. "I came to tell them that the communist government is still there and the fighting is now even more expensive," he said. Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Arab nations were major financial supporters of the U.S.-backed Mujahedeen in the conflict with Soviet and government troops. The Mujahedeen have rejected President Najibullah offers of autonomy if they stop fighting and have refused previous offers of a coalition government.

### Riyadh, China head towards full ties

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has appointed an official with the status of ambassador to head its first trade office in China in what diplomats said was a move towards setting up full diplomatic relations. The London-based Saudi Arabian daily Asharq Al Awsat said Friday the trade office would have benefits similar to those granted to diplomatic missions. It said the chief of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Tawfiq Khaled Almalar, would be in charge of the office, Riyadh's first trade mission in a communist state. Saudi Arabia, which is strongly anti-communist, and China last November to exchange trade offices after Riyadh bought an undisclosed number of Chinese-made CSS-2 medium-range missiles. An eight-man Chinese team is now in Saudi Arabia to prepare to open a Peking's trade mission. Saudi Arabia, the only Arab state with full diplomatic ties with Taiwan, does not recognise communist China and does not have diplomatic relations with East Bloc states.

### Israelis join SDI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Israel signed a memorandum of agreement Thursday to jointly establish and operate a computer test centre to conduct Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research, the Defense Department said. SDI is the U.S. programme to develop a space-based missile defence system. The Pentagon said in a brief statement the two countries expected to spend \$35 million over the next five years on the centre, with the United States bearing 72 per cent of the expense and Israel the remaining 28 per cent. The centre will be built on a site in Israel to be selected by that nation's defence ministry, the Pentagon added. "The test bed facility will be capable of computer simulations of theater missile defence in the Middle East..." the Pentagon said. "Completion of the Israel test bed is expected within 30 months of contract award... at which time both governments will be able to conduct joint or individual computer simulation experiments."

### Israeli convicted for 'selling secrets'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Tel Aviv district court Sunday convicted a Soviet-born Israeli of passing army secrets to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israeli Radio said. Benjamin Shenkman, 36, confessed to charges of transferring secret information to the enemy and holding contacts with enemy agents. He told the court he asked for \$1.5 million in return for the information, the radio said. Sentencing is scheduled for April 12. The maximum term is 33 years. Shenkman told the court he visited Athens three times in 1988 and gave PLO officials information on his military service, including the locations of the bases where he served and the names of his commanders. Shenkman served in the army for four months in 1985. It is unusual for a new immigrant who has served for a short time to hold a sensitive position. Shenkman emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1978 and was reportedly disillusioned with Israeli society.

### Waldheim to visit Morocco

RABAT (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim will pay an official visit to Morocco from June 5 to 7 at the invitation of King Hassan, the Foreign Ministry said.

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in £s per kg.

Almond ..... 50/40

Apple ..... 300/200

Banana ..... 350/200

Banana (Makassar) ..... 300/250

Banana (Pineapple) ..... 800/700

Bread beans ..... 180/120

Cabbage ..... 120/70

Carrot ..... 310/160

Cauliflower ..... 140/100

Cucumbers ..... 320/260

Dates ..... 500/400

Eggplant ..... 240/200

Garlic ..... 300/250

Grapefruit ..... 340/300

Lemon ..... 400/300

Lettuce (per one) ..... 70/50

Marrow (large) ..... 200/150

Marrow (small) ..... 240/180

Orange (Shannon) ..... 400/350

Orange (local) ..... 320/260

Onion (green) ..... 160/120

Pepper (hot) ..... 650/550

Potato (sweet) ..... 180/120

Potato (white) ..... 300/200

Spanish ..... 110/80

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Pepper (hot) ..... 650/550

Potato (sweet) ..... 180/120

Potato (white) ..... 300/200

Spanish ..... 110/80

Strawberry ..... 1600/1250

Tomatoes ..... 270/220

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

01:45 ..... Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)

02:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

04:45 ..... Baghdad (IA)

14:45 ..... Beijing (LN)

16:25 ..... Riyadh (SU)

17:45 ..... Rome (AZ)

20:45 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:45 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

22:45 ..... London, London (RJ)

23:45 ..... Paris, Paris (RJ)

24:45 ..... Kuwait, Doha (RJ)

01:45 ..... Bahrain, Frankfurt (RJ)

02:45 ..... Abu Dhabi



## Queen Noor receives Ilizarov

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday received the Soviet orthopedic Professor Gavril Abramovich Ilizarov (left), who is currently on a working visit to Jordan, during which he will treat a number of difficult cases at Al Hussein Medical Centre. Ilizarov, who has visited Jordan

several times in the past, has pioneered the method of lengthening bones without medical surgery, a method which has been named after him. Queen Noor thanked the Soviet doctor for his efforts to treat Jordanian citizens (Petra photo)



## AOAS outlines strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences' executive board Thursday approved the organisation's strategy for the years 1990-1995, and its plan of action for the years 1990-1991.

AOAS Director General Naser Al Sayegh Thursday said that the organisation strategy as approved by the board, has defined the objective, priorities, programmes and mechanism of work in line with the strategy of the common economic Arab work, and the resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the AOAS board called on all member states to increase their support to the organisation to enable it to carry out its services in the best manner. It voiced appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for the continued support Jordan has been giving to the organisation.

STAMPS EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Thursday opens the Jordanian-Soviet stamps exhibition, held at Alia Art Gallery by the Soviet Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Jordan Philatelic Club. On display at the five day exhibition are Jordanian stamps representing the various historical eras in Jordan, and Soviet stamps depicting Soviet Nature and all aspects of life in the Soviet Union.

## Rotarians start regional meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan Thursday inaugurated the 53rd annual conference of the Rotary Club in the region, which was held this year under the theme: "Rotarians work towards a better life."

Addressing the Rotarians, Touqan pointed out that development plans in Jordan are oriented towards comprehensive and integrated services and that they have opened the door wide for the private sector to play an equal role with the public sector.

Touqan added that the new trends, as outlined in the comprehensive development charter announced by His Majesty King Hussein, aim at revitalising the role of young people in the development process. The development of local communities, in addition to greater emphasis on training and rehabilitation. Such

trends, Touqan noted, are also geared to transform the society into a productive one.

Also addressing participants was the Rotarian region's governor Subhi Al Tihri who reviewed the club's objectives at the global level and pointed out that the Rotary International is bound to work towards achieving a better life. He added that the movement aims at promoting relations of love and understanding among all citizens.

Amman-based Rotary Club Chairman Husam Al Hudhud reviewed the activities and programmes of the Rotary movement in the Arab World and pointed out that the first Rotary club in the Arab World was established in Jerusalem in 1926. On the club's activities in Jordan, Hudhud said, the club has contributed by building a dental clinic at Al Nuza social services centre in 1987, the establishment of an information centre at Al Shomari

## No education for Palestinians, Israel tells UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — On March 28 UNRWA was told by Israel that "military security" precludes for the time being the introduction of even interim measures to provide some basic education for the youngest pupils while 90 of the 98 UNRWA schools in the West Bank remain closed.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, had been

preparing teaching materials for the first three elementary grades which, beginning March 25, teachers were to have given to children in their homes.

West Bank schools have been closed by the Israeli authorities except for a few intermittent periods since February 1988 and have been closed continuously since Jan. 21 1989.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**SYMPOSIUM:** A two-day symposium on the new international humanitarian order and human rights in the Arab World, organised by the Arab Thought Forum in cooperation with the Amman Business and Professional Club, starts here Saturday (Petra).

**CONTRACTORS:** Amman will be a venue for the two-day meetings of contractors from the four founding member states of the Arab Cooperation Council — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — who will discuss scopes of cooperation and coordination among the various contracting companies in the four countries. The meeting starts Saturday (Petra).

**ITALIAN GIFT:** Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francisco de Corten Thursday visited the Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech and donated a number of hearing aids to the centre for use by eligible hearing impaired. The Italian donation is in line with an agreement concluded earlier between the Italian government and the Foundation (Petra).

**HONORED:** Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday held a dinner in honour of the outgoing French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Laclerq, whose tour of duty in Jordan has expired. The dinner was attended by Minister of Tourism Yaman Hikmat and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors to Jordan (Petra).

**STUDY:** The Electronics Services and Training Centre, in conjunction with the Computer Science Department at the Royal Scientific Society has completed a study of arabisation methods for micro-computers. The study was sponsored by the Higher Council for Science and Technology at an estimated cost of JD 20,000 and was carried out over a period of nine months. The aim of this study was to evaluate a number of arabisation packages which are in the market today and to discuss the possibility of laying down specifications of a model arabisation solution (J.T.).

**WELCOMED:** The Arab League Council Wednesday endorsed Jordan's draft resolution welcoming the Hague Declaration which provides for preserving the ozone layer. His Majesty King Hussein and other world leaders signed this declaration on March 11, 1989 (Petra).

**FAIR:** A large number of people, including the Nicaraguan foreign minister, have visited the First Jordanian Industrial Fair being held in Abu Dhabi. The visitors expressed admiration in the Jordanian national industry which proved to be of good quality (Petra).

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.
- An exhibition of Jordanian-Soviet stamps at Alia Art Gallery — 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Ma'a University — 11:00 a.m.

### LECTURES

- A lecture, in Arabic, on "Arabic Language and Computer" by Dr. Ali Al Maliki at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.
- A lecture by Prof. Dr. Dieter Weiss entitled "Public Sector Enterprises, Social Control and the Control of Market-oriented Management. Components in a Competitive International Environment" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.

### FILMS

- A Spanish film entitled "You Alone," shown as part of the Spanish Film Week, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- A German film entitled "Frühlingssinfonie" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

## Queen Noor praises gynaecologists' efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday praised the efforts made by gynaecologists and obstetricians and highlighted their important role in protecting the health of mothers. At a meeting with participants in the first medical conference for gynaecologists and obstetricians, currently held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Queen Noor thanked the participants for their humanitarian work and described them as the front line workers for defending citizens' health. The

Queen was accompanied by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, National Medical Institution Director General Dawoud Hanania, Al Hussein Medical Centre director Nael Ajloni and Jordanian Medical Association president Mamdouh Abadi.

Participants in the conference discussed Thursday working papers on pre-natal care, complications of pregnancy, delivery and abortion, early pregnancies, the ultra sound pregnancy test in addition to other subjects.

## League welcomes ACC — Al Qasem

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday returned home after taking part in the 91st session of the Arab League Council, which was held in the Tunisian capital last week. Qasem also took part in the meetings of the six-member Arab ministerial committee which also met in Tunis to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

In a statement upon arrival, Al Qasem said the Arab League Council has issued a resolution welcoming the forming of the two Arab gatherings, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Union of the Arab Maghreb states, considering them as advanced formulas for pan-Arab work.

On the six-member Arab ministerial committee meetings, Al Qasem said the committee has met with a number of former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers and listened to their

views regarding a solution for the Lebanese question. He pointed out that the committee has also submitted a report on its activities to the Arab League Council.

Al Qasem said that the committee's work has been appreciated by the council, which has voiced its confidence in its work and called on it to pursue its efforts to find a solution that can preserve Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجريدة العربية الوحيدة التي تنشر باللغة العربية في الأردن

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## Health hazard

THERE is a growing scare and panic about the consumption of beverages including milk from paper cartons because such cartons are suspected of containing dioxin, a powerful carcinogen, which is produced when paper used for such cartons is bleached with chlorine. Thus the culprit has been definitely isolated as chlorine which is being used to remove a variety of impurities from paper used to make cartons for beverages worldwide.

In view of the seriousness of this problem and the great danger to health posed to Jordanians consuming beverages from cartons suspected of containing dioxin, our health authorities and environmentalists are duty bound to assure our people about the quality of the paper used in Jordan for beverages especially for milk. It should not be a difficult task to determine quickly whether Jordanian cartons used for beverages contain dioxin or not. If it does, one would expect our government to ban forthwith the use of paper cartons for such purposes and order its replacement with other material such as plastic or glass. It goes without saying that time is of the essence when human life and health are threatened and no price tag is too high to protect Jordanian lives at the quickest time possible. If our beverage industries need time to replace the paper cartons that they are innocently using now, they should be asked to suspend the sale of beverages, including milk, till a substitute material is found. Surely whatever effect on health that would ensue from the suspension of the sale of beverages could not outweigh the danger to health that the continued use of paper cartons with dioxin would pose to life. Fortunately the holy month of Ramadan will commence in a few days and it will provide the most propitious occasion to find acceptable alternatives to paper cartons that are suspected of containing dioxin. Meanwhile, our health authorities should issue warnings to consumers in Jordan about paper cartons after they determine that they contain dioxin. Come to think of it, our health authorities should also issue warnings about any other product that is sold on the Jordanian market which has been found elsewhere in the world as suspect of containing some form of carcinogen. A case in point is dried figs which is a popular fruit in Jordan and found elsewhere as containing carcinogen elements. One hates to think that we in Jordan lag so much behind other countries, which stay diligently on their toes, when it comes to weeding out products that are liberally consumed by our people without being aware that they have been found to be hazardous to health elsewhere. All such developments make the point for establishing a consumer protection agency all the more pressing.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Friday attacked Israeli media campaigns directed against the Arabs in which Israeli leaders claim that the Arab World's quest for peace in the Middle East is closely connected with the economic situation in the region and designed to alleviate their debts. The paper noted that the Arabs have been seeking a just and durable peace under all circumstances and the economic situation has never been an incentive for intensifying efforts towards the attainment of peace which would restore Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. The Arab Nation has been trying to achieve peace but Israel has always been placing obstacles in the path of a just settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that the Arab countries desire for peace cannot be questioned because peace would bring back to the Arab people their usurped rights and peace for the Arabs is not a commodity that can be compromised. It is Israel's lust for bloodshed and its aim to perpetuate occupation of Arab land that is being questioned by all the countries of the world, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, a local columnist casts a cloud of pessimism over the outcome of the on-going confrontations in and negotiations about Lebanon. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the six-member Arab League committee assigned to handle the question of ending the fighting in Beirut can never achieve its objectives unless it took some measures to stop Israel from fueling the situation and setting one party against another. The writer also is pessimistic about and critical of a statement by the present Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss who had stated that the Lebanese should consider returning their country to a situation that existed before the 1974 civil war in Lebanon. The writer says that the civil war which started a long time ago and is still continuing, broke out because the people wanted reforms; and therefore returning Lebanon to the pre-1974 situation means that the destruction that took place and the victims that fell in the war were offered for nothing. The writer says that the Lebanese ought to talk peace instead of pursuing the language of the gun.

Al Dustour daily tackled the Land Day anniversary which fell on Thursday during which a general strike was observed throughout occupied Palestinian land. The paper noted that the Land Day symbolizes the long struggle of the oppressed people of Palestine and the strike and the processions and protests are staged every year to remind the world of the sacred right of the Palestinian people whose lands were usurped since 1948. The paper said that the uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip reaffirms this right and reflects the Arab people's determination to regain their rights. It said that all indications point to the fact that the Israeli occupation will soon end simply because the Palestinians are determined to pursue the struggle for freedom.

## U.S. experts see boost for Gorbachev

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S.-Soviet-watchers are astonished by the dubbing Communist party conservatives suffered in the Soviet elections and say the results are likely to help Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

The official U.S. reaction was more cautious, at least initially, with the Bush administration welcoming a more open Soviet system and Secretary of State James Baker saying only that he doubted Gorbachev would regret the vote results.

State Department officials cautioned against excessive enthusiasm about changes in the Soviet system.

"It is a one-party state and not all elections were contested," one official told Reuters.

But among private analysts, even conservatives who have been sceptical about Gorbachev's reforms expressed amazement at the returns from Sunday's elections and said the vote was a highly significant, positive development.

"The Sovietology community is stunned," said Alice Young, a Soviet affairs expert at the conservative Centre for Strategic and International Studies who runs a computer research network for

scholars.

Virtually no one had expected rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin to garner 89 per cent of the vote against an officially backed opponent, she said, adding: "People who had put up with abuse from the party for so long have stood up to be counted."

The first contested Soviet elections in 70 years — a major plank in Gorbachev's reform platform — shook Communist organisations from the Pacific island of Sakhalin to the western Ukraine.

The city chiefs of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Lvov, Minsk and Kishinev were among the victims.

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scholars.

Legions of angry voters may have done for Gorbachev what he has not been able to accomplish in four years of reform — shake out entrenched bureaucrats at every level."

Dmitri Simes, a Soviet-watcher at the Carnegie Endowment think tank, said in an interview:

"The Communist Party apparatus has been challenged for the first time, but not destroyed, not shattered."

It was unclear how many of the reformers elected in the poll would survive the second stage of selection for membership in a reconstituted supreme Soviet that will meet continuously and is

expected to have some genuine legislative power.

Gustafson predicted that many of the strongest reformers, including Yeltsin, would never serve in the supreme Soviet.

The analysts said that in the short term the vote greatly strengthened Gorbachev's hand because the Soviet leader could now claim wide popular support for his reform programmes of political openness and perestroika, or economic restructuring.

He had managed to stoke a popular desire for reform and use it to advance his programme, Young said.

The Washington Post argued in a lead editorial Tuesday that Gorbachev was "shrewdly using democratic forms to diminish the entrenched party core and other bureaucratic and conservative elements that impede his form."

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov suggested Tuesday that regional Communist leaders beaten in the historic election could be stripped of their party posts, which would strengthen Gorbachev's hand.

U.S. analysts saw two dangers to Gorbachev in the election.

First, it might cause his conservative opponents, fearful that they may soon be ousted, to organise against him.

Second, it could encourage moves toward secession in

Eastern Europe.

Baker said Tuesday that he did not believe Gorbachev would regret the election.

The size of the anti-establishment vote nationwide showed officials did not tamper with the results, thereby indicating Gorbachev is serious about democratic reforms.

Moditors from the U.S.-based International Human Rights Law group said the election process appeared efficient and that they saw no evidence of cheating.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, interviewed by the American television network NBC, said Tuesday he did not believe Gorbachev would regret the election.

Foreign ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said the party would review reasons why candidates lost, and local party organisations would decide what to do with unpopular officials.

Gorbachev has said that criticism levelled at top leaders, including himself, by Soviet citizens is an acceptable price for reform.

He told reporters after voting Sunday that he supports competition at all levels. Even supporters of Yeltsin's anti-establishment

candidacy could be a positive influence because they wanted to push the reform process further along, he said.

The Soviet leader did not face the voters on Sunday because he and most other members of the ruling politburo were among the 100 deputies chosen for the party's allotment of seats in the 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies.

Of 641 top party officials who took part in that balloting, 12 voted against Gorbachev. "I would be very much upset if there was no criticism," Gorbachev said when asked Sunday about the negative votes.

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The size of the anti-establishment

## A stew over Kenya's local brew

By Paul Amina

A local illegal brew called "changaa" — poisonous when not properly prepared — is causing controversy in Kenya. Teetotaler President Moi and the clergy have tried to ban the production of changaa but its cheapness and popularity among ordinary Kenyans are against them.

KISUMU, Kenya — Poorer Kenyans, who cannot afford a beer but like the occasional glass of illegal "changaa" — a cheap but reputedly lethal local gin — are disappointed. Their drink is not going being legalised after all.

Government officials, worried about the cost of policing the ban, had planned careful legalisation and licensing of the drink, which is one of the many traditional — but when carelessly prepared, poisonous — brews made throughout Africa.

Some such brews have already been legalised in other countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia and Somalia. But Kenya's Attorney-General Matthew Muli, reacting to loud objections from the Anglican Church, and pre-empting the conclusions of a commission which has been studying reform

of the law against changaa brewing, has announced the ban will continue.

"We cannot legalise what is illegal," he said.

The Attorney-General responding to Anglican clergymen the Reverend Jephthah Gathuka, who claimed that if changaa were legalised, people would next call for the legalisation of prostitution, drug trafficking and other vices.

Earlier, government officials had been telling the Law Reform Commission, sitting at Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria, that an improved and licensed changaa should be sold in the open market by a group of well organised co-operatives.

To make changaa, grain flour is soaked in water and left to ferment for a few days, then fried in a large open pan. Left to cool, it

is soaked in water once again, mixed with yeast and left to ferment for a further two days.

The resulting "busaa" is mixed with sugar or molasses and further fermented in a tightly covered drum or pot for at least a week to produce "kangara" — which in turn is distilled to make changaa.

If the proper production process is followed, say changaa fans, the drink can rival aged Scotch whiskies and brandy. But get-rich-quick dealers in towns add chemicals, baking powder and other catalysts to speed up fermentation — rendering the drink unhealthy and even unfit for human consumption. Unknown numbers of people have died from drinking such crude changaa.

The commission has been gathering opinions on the eight-year-old changaa ban from all corners of Kenyan society.

At present, the law empowers police to raid premises suspected to be holding or dealing in changaa. But penalties of around \$600 or six months' imprisonment have not proved a strong deterrent.

The reason: cost. A tot of

locally-brewed changaa can sell for as little as 60 cents in Nairobi, while a tot of factory-prepared spirits costs about \$2 and a bottle of beer goes for slightly more

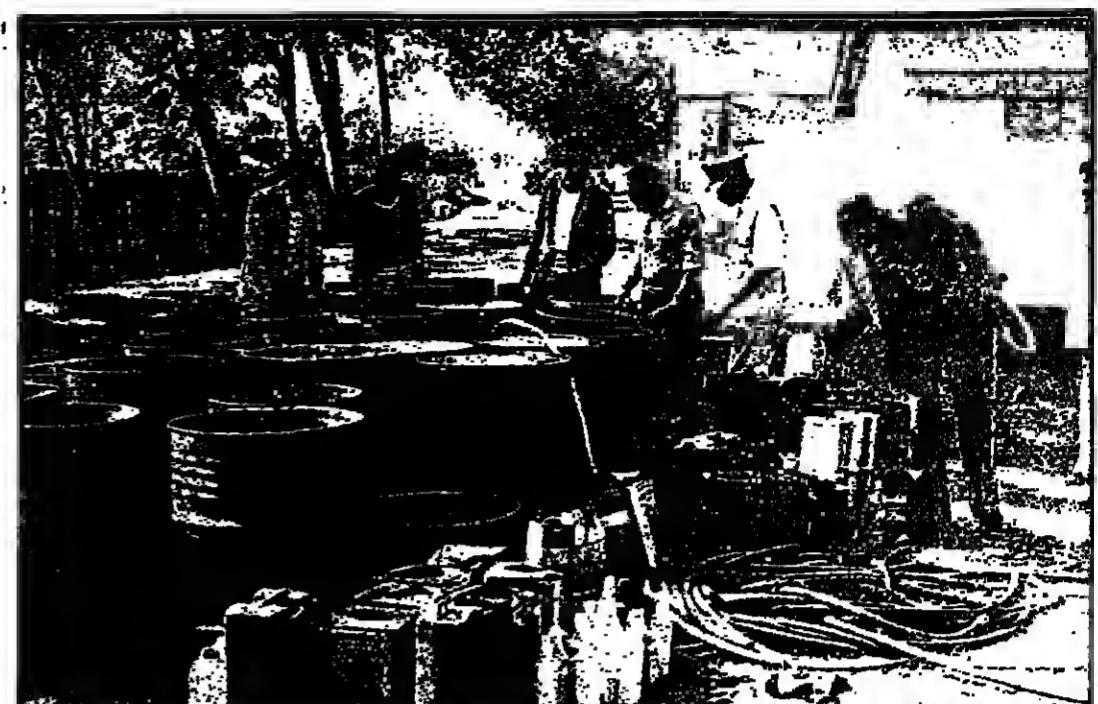
ches. In 1987, President Moi ordered the cancellation of beer store licences.

Recently, in an effort to halt the widespread brewing of changaa, Moi ordered the police to raid premises selling the brew, and arrest and force the dealers to drink all of it found in their possession.

Moi is not alone in the fight against alcoholism in Africa. His Zambian counterpart, President Kenneth Kaunda, recently broke into tears when protesting about alcoholism in his country. He threatened to resign if his countrymen did not change their drinking habits.

Alcoholism in developing countries is on the increase. According to the latest figures from the World Health Organisation, beer consumption in Central and Western Africa is up by 345% (1960-81), followed by East Asian countries by 560% in the same period.

Bear accounted for about 40% of the world's alcoholic beverage production. African countries produced and drank the biggest quantity — Panos.



Kenyan police draining changaa from distillery drums, after the distillers had fled.

## Do they really care?

By Mark Trevelyan

Reuter

YORK — Paul Sayer snatched Britain's richest literary prize last January with the harrowing story of a speechless, paralysed mental patient. Two months later, he still has qualms of conscience.

"The comforts of madness," written in Sayer's spare time while he was working a psychiatric nurse, won the \$34,250 Whitbread Book of the Year Prize.

But Sayer — who quit nursing two days later to become a full-time writer, and plans a second novel about madness — admits to misgivings about drawing inspiration from the silent, inner world of the mentally ill.

"I think I have misgivings about being seen to represent this big and silent world... I sometimes wonder if I did the right thing, if I wasn't really abusing the sort of insight I had into that place," he said in an interview.

"But then on the other hand... the mentally ill really should have someone to tell their story."

"The comforts of madness" is narrated by Peter, a catatonic patient unable to move or speak, but acutely sensitive to the daily humiliations beaped on him in the course of his treatment.

Denying him the sanctuary of his comforting, silent world, doctors relentlessly probe and experiment with his inert body, anxious to find even faint flickers of a human response.

A supervisor thrusts pictures of

naked women in his face and undresses him, seeking signs of sexual excitement, while some doctors send him on terrifying drug-induced flights of memory and imagination, returning him to his disturbed childhood.

What are their rights?

Peter alternates between quiet resignation to his fate and furious indignation. "They should have known better than to fool around with someone like me. What right had they?" he demands. "But then, what were my rights?"

Though Peter is not based on any real patient, Sayer drew on his own disquieting experiences of psychiatric nursing to write the book.

"When I started nursing in the 70s... the only ward I found very, very difficult was rehabilitation, which I couldn't get along with — the idea of me saying to someone: 'You are ill. I am well. I am going to make you like me' — this idea of remaking someone," he said.

"The premise of the book is wrong," he said. "The idea that reinventing people is wrong."

Some critics have found elements of black comedy in "the comforts of madness". Others find it depressing and others see it as a statement on behalf of the mentally ill; though Sayer says he never intended the book as a polemic.

"The ambition was always just to write a novel, not make any sort of statement on behalf of the mentally ill. I did quite deliberately go for a while."

"They like to go to an abstraction like a novel because it's safe and you can hold it in your hands in your own home and then say, 'gosh, isn't it awful'."

"The comforts of madness," has entered its fourth edition in Britain and is set for publication in the United States in September. Translation rights into French and Spanish have already been sold.

The 33-year-old writer, with self-deprecating humour, says he feels intimidated by the task of living up to this newly-acquired reputation. "I think it's all downhill from now on, to be quite honest. It's very intimidating," he said.

He is now working on a new novel, also dealing with the theme of madness, and in September plans to publish his first short story, a tale of "morbidity" among the yuppie set.

In the long-term, Sayer says his aim is to write 40 good novels. "The first one's all right, and I'd like to do nine more. That's my ambition," he said. "I'd like to write good novels that'll be around for a while."

## For Afghans, a new year of piety, celebration and war

By Hugh Pain

Reuter

MAZAR-I-SHARIF — In Mazar-i-Sharif, all the pigeons are white.

So holy is the city, say the faithful, that any grey ones that arrive turn white within 40 days.

Mazar-i-Sharif, a muddy and romantic place of 200,000 souls in northern Afghanistan, is the resting place of Hazrat Ali, cousin and brother-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed and fourth caliph of Islam.

Or perhaps it is not. Ali was murdered in the year 661 in Iraq, and the Iraqis say his remains have been there ever since.

Not so, say the Afghans.

According to their tradition, to avoid the body falling into the hands of his enemies, the caliph's followers strapped him to a white camel which was set free to wander and turned up months later in Afghanistan, 2,500 kilometres away.

There, a pious sultan built him a monument called Mazar-i-Sharif, the tomb of the exalted one.

Around this shrine there rose a splendid mosque, rebuilt in 1481 and decorated with a riot of blue and yellow tiles, and the focus of pilgrimages especially at Nowruz, the Islamic new year which fell this year on March 21 by the Western calendar.

It may represent the raising of the standard of Islam by Hazrat Ali, or perhaps not — nobody seems very sure. But if its significance is doubtful, its effect is magical.

As the Janda is lifted to the vertical on an ancient stone, canons boom, the white pigeons panic and fly, and a roar of satisfaction bursts from the thousands.

The mullahs and ministers file once around it and retreat to the safety of the dais, and as they do so, the press of humanity becomes unstoppable.

The people break through the cordon of soldiers and rush for

the railings around the Janda. They press as close as they can come to the sacred maypole, throwing in coins and banknotes, fruits and ornate cloths, some inscribed with prayers, and little squares of growing seedlings to ensure a good harvest.

Policemen swat at enthusiasts who try to scale the railings while three men inside the enclosure, in a sea of money, take possessions from the faithful — clothing, watches, hats, anything will do — rub them on the green-and-gold cloth wound around the pole and hand them back, sanctified, to their owners.

An old woman brings an apple as an offering, spikes it on the railing. Seconds later a passing mullah retrieves it, splits it with a friend and munches contentedly at it as his due.

The dignitaries leave with their escorts, the soldiers and their band march off and the gardens around the mosque become a vast picnic ground. Hawkers sell bread or toys for the children or little packets of grain for the pigeons.

During the Buzkashi, a fusillade of rockets is fired into the nearby hills. Nobody is sure why. Perhaps it is a false alarm, perhaps a warning to the Mujahideen rebels encamped not far away.

Or perhaps it is a reminder to the crowds that when the celebrations, the feasting, the traditional enjoyments of Nowruz are over, Afghanistan is a country still poor, divided and at war.

## To choreographer Twyla Tharp, dance is dance is dance

By Mary Kerner  
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — To most people, classical ballet conjures up images of toe shoes and tutus, whereas modern dance means leotards and bare feet.

But the line of demarcation is blurring, and no one would be more pleased than choreographer Twyla Tharp to see it disappear altogether.

"There shouldn't be a definition or a difference between ballet and modern — it's all just dance," Tharp said during a recent interview in San Francisco where her "Everlast" had its world premiere with the touring American Ballet Theatre (ABT).

"Everlast," which paired ABT star Susan Jaffe with Kevin O'Day from Tharp's former company, is a narrative about a boxer in love with the "wrong" woman. It is set in 1919 to songs of Jerome Kern.

Tharp shocked the dance world last summer when she gave up the modern troupe she had directed since 1965 to become an artistic associate of the New York-based ABT, a bastion of classical ballet.

Dance aficionados wondered why Tharp, with four feature films to her credit — "Hair," "Ragtime," "Amadeus," and "White Nights" — would let go of her company and her autonomy to labour within the structure of an organisation like ABT.

But autonomy had a price.

Running a dance company, she said, took too much time away from what she loves best: making dances.

"I want to make the best dances I can make, so I need to be in a situation where that can happen. When I feel the situation is restricting it and not allowing that to come to pass and it's being compromised, then I won't work," she said.

Her dancers are coaching ABT in "Tharp" style, which requires tremendous speed, rapid change of directions and often juxtaposes

point shoes with sneakers. Her company, Twyla Tharp and dancers, was one of the first in the modern camp to don jazz shoes instead of bare feet, which she says tend stick to the floor.

Speed has always delighted her, and she has managed to use it in a way that looks nothing at all like the classical style of any school.

Tharp loves working with technically strong dancers, and Baryshnikov's career expanded with Tharp's new approach to movement, which encompasses ballet, modern, jazz and tap dance.

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point shoes with sneakers. Her company, Twyla Tharp and dancers, was one of the first in the modern camp to don jazz shoes instead of bare feet, which she says tend stick to the floor.

Speed has always delighted her, and she has managed to use it in a way that looks nothing at all like the classical style of any

school, so they can do anything you ask them to do off balance," she said.

They're much more serious. Part of that is the French desire for adventure in the arts, anyway.

They're overly eager — just the opposite of here. They're far less conservative."

Tharp divided her time in San Francisco between ABT rehearsals and, in a hotel room jammed with tidy stacks of notecards and manuscript papers, a autobiography she is writing.

She plans a video as a companion to the book and promises a lecture tour — another surprise from a rather reserved dancer who prefers to let her pieces talk for themselves.

Baryshnikov

Tharp brought seven of her dancers with her to ABT, which has been run since 1984 by Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Tharp's association with Soviet-born Baryshnikov dates back more than a decade. He danced her "push comes to shove" with ABT in 1976, and she later choreographed several pieces with him in mind —

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## OPEC vows to try to choke excess oil, keep prices high

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers vowed to try to keep a choke on oil supply in the hope that prices will stay around current 19-month highs.

Ending talks in Vienna late Thursday, group leaders acknowledged that the next three months will probably see a seasonal dip in surprisingly strong world demand for petroleum products.

They also agreed that developments like the Valdez oil spill which has cut Alaskan supply and given prices their latest boost are one-off affairs.

Still, said Algerian Oil Minister Saddek Bousenna, OPEC should be able to defend its target price of \$18 a barrel.

The average for OPEC crudes (which vary in quality) has only just climbed back to that level, last touched in a Gulf war flare-up in August 1987, after a glut last year took it down almost to \$10.

But Bousenna and others said everything depended on OPEC sellers sticking to output quotas

assigned from Jan. 1 to erase the glut.

"One or two" have not been doing so, Rilwan Lukman of Nigeria, the current president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), conceded.

Secretary-General Subroto, however, said that Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has been a leading source of excess supply, had telephoned to say it was cutting back.

Subroto also said OPEC expects world demand for its oil to take another bound upward in the second half of 1989.

Ministers, however, were unwilling to predict by how much.

"There are various populations," Lukman said, while Indonesia's Kartasasmita found the current strength of demand still something of a

puzzle.

"Almost everyone is agreed the demand outlook is better than we thought," he said. But he explained that the uncertainty meant that the session could offer no firm proposals for the next full OPEC conference on June 5.

The meeting was of an eight-nation market monitoring committee with no decision-taking powers.

The June 5 talks will bring together all 13 members to set quotas for the second half of 1989 — when it may prove tricky to accommodate competing demands to sell more oil in the event that strong demand does permit a rise in the overall OPEC output ceiling (now 18.5 million barrels daily).

Kuwait earlier had expressed the view of the big Gulf Arab producers that if prices go too high the consumer, already paying more at the pump in the United States and parts of Europe, will buy less and kill the fragile rally in demand.

Kuwait's Ali Al Khatib Al Sabah, in remarks to lobby reporters, softened an earlier position that the ceiling should rise to 20 million barrels daily from July with his nation and the UAE getting big quota increases.

It was less a "suggestion" than an "opinion," he said.

"hawks" and "doves" had been bridged in informal exchange here, a view which seemed to be borne out by Iran's Gholamreza Azazadeh.

"For this year I don't think there would be anyone who would want a price higher than \$18," he said.

It was true that Iran had historically favoured stronger prices.

"But we want 1989 to be a year of stability for OPEC."

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## To stop throat-grating nicotine injections

## Arabs squeeze tobacco firms

ABU DHABI (R) — British and U.S. tobacco firms face possible losses in the lucrative Gulf Arab market, where governments are trying to stop their dedicated smokers puffing away on strong cigarettes.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is due to impose new regulations Saturday which could force tobacco firms to change some production lines, local dealers said.

"Demand is very high considering the population," said one dealer.

They said the U.S. companies Marlboro and Winston and the British firms Rothmans and Dunhill, which between them have 90 per cent of the UAE market, all sold cigarettes which would be banned under the new rules.

The other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are expected to

follow suit following a GCC agreement last year, aimed at reducing the number of smokers, officials said.

Every year UAE smokers now puff their way through 2.5 billion cigarettes worth \$67 million and the total GCC market of 17 million people is worth about 15 times more, dealers said.

"Demand is very high considering the population," said one dealer.

On Saturday, the UAE is due to ban cigarettes with more than 12 milligrams of tar and 0.8 milligrams of nicotine. Boxes of more than 20 cigarettes will also be banned.

The GCC plans a hefty 50 per cent tariff on cigarette and tobacco imports, a ban on advertising in official media and health warnings.

Saif Khalfan, a director at the

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

The main potential threat to traditional suppliers comes from Japanese brands, which have not so far been a success in the region because the Gulf smoker likes a throat-grating nicotine injection. Most mild Japanese tobacco is within the new limits, dealers said.

Authorities hope the campaign will cut the number of smokers but, while in the short-term companies could lose money, many smokers think that in the long-run it will not make much difference.

"Smokers will get used to the new tar and nicotine levels," said a Rothmans dealer.

An average packet of 20 cigarettes now costs the equivalent of \$1 but dealers said that even a hefty price increase might not be enough to dissuade many smokers in the high-income GCC.

## 73 countries pledge \$744 million to boost industry in Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and 72 other countries have pledged \$744 million to boost new industry in the Third World by insuring investors against the risk of war, revolution and confiscation, an investment agency has announced.

The new Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency said Thursday that the biggest pledge — \$20.51 million — came from the United States, followed by Japan with \$5.09 million and West Germany with \$5.07 million.

Leigh Hollywood, the agency's vice president for guarantees, said the first insurance policies probably will be written by June for periods of up to 20 years. So far most of the 60 applications have come from the United States but there have been others.

The deals are called "debt-equity swaps." The resulting investments are prime candidates

for insurance by the agency, given the uncertainty about what will follow the government of military President Augusto Pinochet after December's election.

Pinochet seized power from a leftist government 15 years ago.

Hollywood outlined four kinds of risks the agency will insure against:

— War, revolution and civil commotion, including losses caused by shut-downs due to violence.

— Expropriation, including what is called "creeping expropriation" in which foreign owners are gradually deprived of their rights by the government of the country where they have invested.

— Blockage by the local government of foreign exchange, preventing the foreign investor

from taking home earnings or the proceeds of a sale.

— Breach of contract by a government which has made an agreement with a foreign investor, so that the investor can collect from the agency if the government fails to pay up.

Hollywood explained that when the agency pays off the insured investor, it will try to collect the money from the government.

"We don't want to bankrupt ourselves," he said.

He added that it expects informal help in such collections from the World Bank, with which it shares offices and a president — Barber Comar.

It also expects to make money from the premiums it will charge, ranging from 0.3 to 1.5 per cent for each of the four kinds of coverage, depending on the risk.

Spokeswoman Danielle Ayotte

## Bankers give Tokyo, Berne top ratings

NEW YORK (AP) — The credit ratings of South Korea, Chile, Portugal, Iran and Tunisia have risen strongly in the past six months, a survey of international bankers shows.

But the bankers have sharply downgraded their ratings of Trinidad, Panama, Cuba, Norway, Gabon and Libya, according to the survey by Institutional Investor, a New York-based financial monthly magazine.

Every six months Institutional Investor asks about 100 international commercial banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 countries on a scale of 0 to 100. Those with higher ratings generally find it easier to raise loans and they tend to pay lower interest rates.

At the top of the scale are Japan and Switzerland, with ratings of 95.2 and 94.3, followed by

West Germany with 93.8. The United States, rated No. 1 for many years by bankers, now ranks fourth with 89.8 points.

At the bottom end of the scale are Nicaragua, which scored 4.7 out of 100, and North Korea, 3.6.

In its March edition, the magazine commented that "relative political stability boosted South Korea, while rising tensions in Panama. Economic gains underpinned rises for Spain and Portugal, Mauritius and Thailand, but hints of reduced Soviet aid set back Cuba."

Since the last survey in September 1988, the biggest decline for a region was registered by Latin America. The U.S. registered a 0.3 gain since September, even though Washington "has shown no concrete signs of controlling its trade deficit, its budget deficit, or its exchange rate."

## Iraq gets \$50 million credit from Pakistan

BAGHDAD (AP) — Pakistan will extend a \$50 million export credit to Iraq for purchases of Pakistani goods, the government-run Alif Baa weekly magazine has reported.

The magazine quoted Pakistani Commerce Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat as saying the credit will cover a wide variety of products including fishing vessels and other merchant ships.

Alif Baa also quoted the Pakistani official as saying his country is keen to participate in Iraq's reconstruction efforts, following

the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire last Aug. 20 that halted the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Hayat said a bilateral economic and trade accord in Baghdad last month "paved the way for further cooperation" between Iraq and Pakistan.

Officials in Baghdad told the Associated Press that a delegation of Iraqi businessmen will soon visit Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, to select goods covered by the new credit.

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## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### UAE bank sets up index for stocks

DUBAI (R) — Stocks investors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are being given a better opportunity to monitor their investments. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) is setting up the country's first publicly quoted stocks index based on a basket of 22 shares, said NBAD senior manager Ziad Dabbas. Dealing in UAE shares is still limited to nationals but the move is part of a general trend toward more efficient capital markets within the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). At the annual meeting of Arab Monetary Funds and central bankers in Amman, delegates agreed that stock and bond markets needed to be developed to attract more private Arab capital as government-generated development revenues have declined due to low oil prices. The GCC nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — have agreed in principle to allow open investment in each other.

### Yugoslavia expands liberalisation drive

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government has decided to scrap import controls for private firms and relax foreign exchange controls, Tanjug news agency said Friday. The moves are part of reforms intended to create an open market for goods, labour and capital to revive an economy saddled with 346 per cent inflation, a \$22 billion foreign debt and 1.17 million unemployed. Prices, imports and the foreign exchange regime have been liberalised gradually since last May under an austerity package imposed by the prime minister Branko Mikulic. He resigned in December in a parliamentary rift over inflation but his successor Ante Markovic, a liberal reformer who took office last month, pledged to deregulate the economy further. The Markovic government said it is abolishing a \$250 daily maximum withdrawal limit on hard currency bank accounts in Yugoslavia. It also dropped a \$70,000 annual limit on private firms importing equipment, raw material and semi-finished goods. The government also ruled out a return to wage controls, which were introduced a year ago by Mikulic, fuelling nationwide labour unrest.

### IBM Japan profits \$640 million

TOKYO (AP) — IBM Japan Ltd. earned net profits of 85.23 billion yen (\$640.8 million) in 1988, up 14.7 per cent from the previous year, thanks to Japan's expanding economy and steady demand for information-processing equipment, the company has announced. The company said domestic sales grew by 12.8 per cent to \$38.5 billion yen (\$6.3 billion) while exports rose by 10.1 per cent to \$49.3 billion yen (\$2.6 billion). The increase in exports

### Japan's jobless rate remains at 2.3%

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate remained at 2.3 per cent in February for the third straight month, while job offers inched up, the government has announced. Japan's unemployment rate would be about double if it was calculated according to Western methods, Japanese officials say. In Japan, armed forces personnel and people working more than one hour in the last week or the month — when data is tabulated — are counted as employed. In the United States, military personnel are not considered part of the labour force, and those working less than 15 hours a week are considered unemployed.

### South African interest rates soar

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Interest rates in South Africa's money and bond markets have soared to their highest levels in years, registering a no-confidence vote in the latest budget and setting the stage for a rise in the banks' prime lending rates to 20 per cent. The three-month bankers acceptance rate, the key interest rate in the money market, surged to 17 per cent last week — its highest level since August 1985. Rates on key stocks in the bond market have shot up to their highest levels in more than two years since the March 15 budget. Dealers said the financial markets were pessimistic because of the widely held view that Finance Minister Barend Du Plessis' budget was not sufficiently austere. The prime rate rose in February to the present 19 per cent and has climbed steadily since January 1987 when it was 12.5 per cent.

### Sarney denounces 'Western destruction'

BRASILIA (AP) — President Jose Sarney has said trade protectionism, the foreign-debt burden and inequalities between rich and poor countries were obstacles to a better environmental policy. Sarney sharply criticised the environmental policy of industrialised countries. The developed nations have "destroyed the plant cover of the planet... and depleted natural resources for the sake of higher living standards," Sarney told 15 ministers and environmental specialists gathered from 32 countries. Sarney also attacked foreign creditors that "impose conditions for granting credits... which results in a reduction of resources that hurts the environmental cause."

from their creditors through an international bankruptcy law. A report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar noted that bankruptcy in private industry was seen "not as a challenge to business norms but as an integral and necessary part of on-going commercial activity."

The question followed, the 33-page report said, "could the international community, by analogy, develop an international law of bankruptcy for sovereign states?"

The document reviewed the role of transnational banks in global commerce.

Many of the building blocks for an international bankruptcy system have already been assembled, including the collective experience of rescheduling negotiations for bank loans and "Paris Club"

debt, the U.N. report said.

"No one should minimise the difficulty of reaching agreement on equitable rules that would enable sovereign states to seek protection from their creditors under the aegis of an international law of bankruptcy," the report said.

"However, with the debt crisis unabated, it may be opportune for debtors and creditors alike to look again at this possibility."

"A practical approach that short-cuts the long-term process involved in the setting up of new institutional mechanism would be to address the debt question as though an international law of bankruptcy were in effect."

"Under this approach, a debtor country, like a bankrupt corporation or a financially strapped municipality, would formulate its restructuring and development plans as though it had been granted relief from creditors."

"Working backwards from realistic growth targets, a multi-year operating and financing plan including sectoral goals, export growth, necessary investments, etc., would be prepared by the debtor country with whatever assistance it required."

The report said the plan could be reviewed by a committee from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Once approved, the plan, including new capital needs and a long-term adjusted schedule for repayment of existing debt and interest, would be presented to the creditor banks as well as the World Bank, IMF and regional development banks," the United Nations said.

SYDNEY — Prices slipped on gloom about the interest rate outlook and depressed base metal prices. The All Ordinaries index lost 9.3 to 1,457.7.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed but the Nikkei index firmed to a record high for a third successive day. Dealers attributed this largely to window dressing on the financial year's final session. The index rose 12.55 to 32,638.68.

HONG KONG — Good company results triggered a technical rebound from Thursday's losses. The Hang Seng index gained 24.22 to 3,004.98.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed generally higher with gain

## Queen Noor presents trophy to JTF player

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday attended training exercises in tennis performed by students enrolled in a training programme organised by the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) at Al Hussein Youth City. JTF President Dr. Daoud Hanania delivered a speech on this occasion, thanking the Queen for supporting the game and noting that the JTF had embarked on a plan to develop and improve the game. After watching the training exercises, Queen Noor presented a gift to one of the players.

## Syria, S. Arabia tie 0-0

LATTAKIA (AP) — Syria and Saudi Arabia tied 0-0 in a World Cup West Asia group 2 qualifying playoff in this north Syrian port city Thursday. Saudi Arabia won the first game against Syria 3-0 on March 15. More than 50,000 soccer fans packed Assad stadium to watch

the two Arab teams battling for advancement into the next round. The game was characterised by fierce attacks and counter-attacks but neither side managed to score. The referees extended the game eight minutes to make up for time lost by delaying tactics employed by the Saudi players in the second half.

## Namibia ends isolation

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — An Angolan soccer team will play a match here Sunday, ending Namibia's prolonged sports isolation from black Africa, organisers announced Wednesday. The match is to take place in Windhoek a day after the formal start of the United Nations-monitored transition process that will bring independence to Namibia by early 1990 after being ruled by South Africa since World War I.

As a South African territory, Namibia has been subject to the same international sports boycotts that are imposed on South Africa because of its racial segregation policies. But the prospect of independence and black-majority rule for Namibia already has had an impact.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND DMAR SHARIF  
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#### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦ 8 7 3 ♠ A Q J 6 0 A K 8 5 ♠ A K 1 0 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass  
2 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A—Although partner rates you have solid stoppers in the unbid suits, you do have a ruffing value and good three-card support for his first-bid suit. It is your duty to offer a choice of contracts. Bid three hearts.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦ 6 5 4 3 ♠ K 9 8 ♠ A K 1 0 5 4 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A—In the modern style, two diamonds does not promise a stopper, let alone a suit. However, it does guarantee another bid, so you need do no more than bid two hearts to see how partner reacts. If you still play that two diamonds is natural, jump to three no trump to show your power.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ 8 3 ♠ A J 7 6 0 A 8 2 ♠ A K 9 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A—We hope you didn't bid three no trump. Partner has the opportunity to do so with a diamond stopper, but he did not take it. However, he must have at least a six-card suit, more likely even a seven-bagger. Bid four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ 7 2 ♠ K 8 7 0 A 1 0 9 4 ♠ A K 1 0 5 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A—in this situation, partner should have some 8-10 points for his response, but after an overall in spades, he could be a point or so light. However, this is not a hand for point-counters. Bid three no trump. At best, it will be laydown; at worst, it could depend on finding the queen of clubs.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4262, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4262.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS  
3-30



"It's fisherman's toothpaste! It makes your breath smell like bait so you attract more fish!"

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME  
by Heidi Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answer Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: ENUF. MUSY. SLEEPY. BEHAVE  
Answer: THE

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### De Savary issues challenge to New Zealand

LONDON (R) — British businessman Peter De Savary issued congratulations and an immediate challenge on Wednesday to the New Zealand syndicate awarded the 1988 America's Cup by New York's Supreme Court. De Savary, whose own challenge for the yachting trophy was ruled out by the court last year, said in a statement: "Please accept our congratulations on the outcome of the court case. We look forward to relieving you of the cup in the forthcoming challenge."

### Kenya probes missing athlete fees

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's Amateur Athletic Association is probing the reported loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars won by the country's world-class middle- and long-distance runners. Appearance and prize money due the athletes was supposed to have gone into a trust fund administered by the association — a fund that apparently never was established. The International Amateur Athletic Federation requires member associations to set up trust funds for their athletes, with monies to be paid to the performers after their retirement from amateur sports. Apparently at the centre of the closed-door investigation is Robert Ouko, who was suspended as secretary of the Kenya Athletic Association last November along with the organisation's treasurer.

### Player may appeal against 'baby fine'

LONDON (R) — An English first division soccer player who walked out on his team and attended the birth of his son was considering Friday whether to continue his fight over a \$2,200 fine. Queen's Park Rangers midfielder Martin Allen was fined two weeks' wages by manager Trevor Francis earlier this month. The fine was reduced on appeal by half Thursday by a football league commission. But Allen has said he may seek a further hearing to make Francis explain why he imposed the fine. Allen received a call from his wife at 3 a.m. on the day of the Newcastle match to say she was worried about the impending birth. He immediately left Newcastle to be at her side in London.

### Bulgarian banned for life after dope test

VIENNA (R) — A Bulgarian weightlifter has been banned for life after being positively dope-tested in a random check carried out by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The official Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) reported Wednesday the test had been carried out in Fedimary in the town of Sliven. Traces of an anabolic steroid had been found in a sample from Ivan Pashalakov, 21, described as a hopeful for the 1992 Olympics. IWF officials carried out eight random tests in Bulgaria last month in accordance with new rules passed by the federation November after last year's Olympics. Two Bulgarian weightlifters, Mitko Grablev and Angel Guenchev, gold medal winners in Seoul, were disqualified and forfeited their medals after testing positive. They were also later banned for two years by the IWF.

### FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good humored day sets the stage for light activities of a vicious nature. This is a great time to focus on the rebirth of nature and getting out those old April Fools Day jokes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you take something apart to see that you can put it back together again, return to basics when you are not sure of the outcome.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is a good day to experiment if you are inclined to weave variety into your lifestyle. Affairs of the heart can be stimulating today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Spending can get out of hand. Send any nasty correspondence to the shredder and ignore it. Make comparisons when shopping.

MOON CHITCHEN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Slow and easy is the best approach to this day. Household chores may influence the early part of the day.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Take a direct and firm hand in dealing with sibling problems. Develop unity in relationships that affect family pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Letting others know of your ambitions gives them a chance to help you. Lippy siblings may leave you short tempered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Initiating political, philosophical or religious discussions can lead to bad feelings. Hang out with people

who understand and accept you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You get cosmic help if you start a quiet-sleeping or diet plan tomorrow morning. For best results, set your mind to it and get psyched up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You connect with something you have been expecting for a long time, possibly a lost item. Use tact when dealing with a repair person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a good day to experiment if you are inclined to weave variety into your lifestyle. Affairs of the heart can be stimulating today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Spending can get out of hand. Send any nasty correspondence to the shredder and ignore it. Make comparisons when shopping.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Shifting demands are hard to handle. Friends are important to you, and a goodbye is a sensitive issue. An understanding mate helps you.

### Frenchman's lone coast to coast bid fails gallantly

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Frenchman's exhausting effort to beat a month-old sailing record fell just hours short Thursday as a tired, hungry and bloody Philippe Monnet steered his battered trimaran toward the Golden Gate after 80 days and 14,000 miles at sea.

Monnet lost his bid for the New York-to-San Francisco record after a series of heart-breaking setbacks, including a brush with a submerged iceberg off Cape Horn that cost him a week for repairs. Near the end, he had to battle 18-foot (5.5-metre) seas and capricious winds off the California coast.

But the 29-year-old sailor became the first person to sail the route alone, said Oliver Lanusse-Cazale, Monnet's contact in San Francisco.

"That is a consolation," Lanusse-Cazale said. He went out in a powerboat just after sunrise to greet Monnet and his crippled ship.

Earlier Thursday, Lanusse-Cazale conceded Monnet had been defeated by a combination of bad luck and bad weather and predicted he would arrive at the Golden Gate by noon. He needed to arrive by 7:34 a.m. (15:34 GMT) to snap the mark set Feb. 12 by the sloop Thursday's child, which took 80 days and 20 hours to port.

But at noon (2000 GMT), a helicopter hired by backers of the effort spotted Monnet still 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of the city, and his arrival time was pushed back by four to five hours.

The players exchanged breaks early in the second set, but at 3-3, it was Sabatini who decided to attack the net.

## International Players Women's Semis

### Sabatini struggles through

KEY BISCAYNE (R) — Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced to the final of the \$2.1 million International Players Tennis Championships Thursday with a grueling 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-4 win over Helena Sukova.

Sukova, the third seed from Czechoslovakia, battled for two hours and 20 minutes in 120 degrees (49 degrees centigrade) of wilting heat on the court before succumbing to a series of unforced errors on her own serve in the last game.

Sabatini, who lives just a mile away from the Key Biscayne tennis centre, fell behind 3-1 in the opening set to a barrage of big serves and angled volleys by Sukova but used her heavy top-spin groundstrokes to pull even as the Czech opted to stay in the backcourt.

Sabatini missed a set point at 5-4 with Sukova serving, and at 6-6 the set went into a tiebreaker. Sukova quickly built up a 4-0 lead and won it 7-2 with a lob.

It was mostly that I handled it the wrong way from the beginning of that game, said Sabatini of her slow start. "When I finished the first set, I felt better, I was a little more loose."

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## Namibians cheer U.N. force

WINDHOEK (R) — Women in coloured skirts and bonnets and tribal horsemen joined thousands of Namibians Friday in an enthusiastic welcome for a portly Finnish bureaucrat who will oversee the country's independence from South Africa.

Marti Ahtissari, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, pledged that his mission would act with absolute impartiality when it starts its monitoring operation Saturday.

"We fully appreciate that South Africa has made an equally solemn commitment to a totally even-handed approach to all the people of Namibia," he told a news conference at Windhoek airport.

"Namibia has truly been a wound in the side of Africa. But it also has a very special place in the hearts and minds of the whole

world," he added.

Ahtissari, who heads the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), was greeted formally on the tarmac by Pretoria's top official in the colony, administrator-general Louis Pienaar.

But outside the heavily-garrisoned airport perimeter, thousands of Namibians, some of whom had walked for hours, cheered his arrival on a scheduled flight from Europe.

Many of the women in the mainly black crowd wore traditional dress of long, colourful skirts and huge bow-shaped bonnets, while a posse of more than

100 Namibian horsemen saluted as Ahtissari's motorcade left the terminal for the 45-kilometre drive into town.

The main UNTAG task is to monitor Namibian general elections scheduled for November. Pienaar, the man entrusted with supervising Pretoria's year-long decolonisation process, said he hoped the poll would be "free from the scourge of violent intimidation."

"South Africa and the United Nations share a common purpose in this," he said.

UNTAG, a force of 4,650 peacekeeping troops and hundreds of police and civilians from more than 50 countries, has been set up under U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

Under a peace agreement signed last December, South Africa agreed to give up the

world's highest remaining dependent territory in exchange for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola.

Angola invited the Cubans to help defend the border against an alleged threat of invasion from South Africa.

The governments of Pretoria, Luanda and Havana also pledged in the agreement to respect a ceasefire in the guerrilla bush war between Pretoria's troops and the Angolan-supported South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), and to exchange political prisoners.

As a goodwill gesture, the three signatories were Friday due to carry out an exchange of prisoners-of-war at the remote north Namibian settlement of Ruacana.

Namibia has been swept with

independence fever as the Saturday deadline approaches for the start of UNTAG operations.

## New York Times, Washington Post share Pulitzer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times and the Washington Post shared the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting announced Thursday, while the Anchorage Daily News won the public service prize for reporting about problems facing Alaska natives.

In the arts category, "The Heidi Chronicles," Wendy Wasserstein's play about one woman's voyage from the 1960s to the 1980s, won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The prize for fiction went to Anne Tyler's "Breathing Lessons," and the award for general non-fiction went to "A Bright Shin-

ing Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam," by Neil Sheehan.

The prestigious yearly awards for outstanding work in journalism and the arts by Americans were endowed by the late publisher, Joseph Pulitzer. First given in 1917, they are awarded by the trustees of Columbia University in New York on the recommendation of the Pulitzer board.

The board awarded two prizes in the category of international reporting. One went to Glenn Frankel of the Washington Post for reporting from Israel and the Middle East; the other went to Bill Keller of the

New York Times for coverage of the Soviet Union.

Frankel, in occupied Jerusalem, told the AP he was very surprised and honoured at winning the prestigious prize.

Frankel said the 15-month uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has been a "very dramatic" story.

"I've tried very hard to keep the story on human terms, keep it about people on the ground and how it affects them, not just the generals in the army but Palestinians of all varieties and the Israelis who have to serve (in the territories)," Frankel said.

Israelis already have seized

on the prize as proof that Israel is an open and democratic society with freedom of the press, Frankel said. But he pointed out that one of his stories selected for the Pulitzer nomination was about Israel's assassination last April in Tunis of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Khalil Wazir, known by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad.

The government temporarily suspended Frankel's press card after the article was published because he failed to submit it to military censorship.

David Zucchino of the Philadelphia Inquirer won the feature writing prize for his series

"Being Black in South Africa." Each of the Pulitzer's carries a \$3,000 prize, except for public service, which is recognised with a gold medal.

Two history prizes were awarded to "Parlour The Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63," by Taylor Branch, and to "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era," by James M. McPherson.

The biography prize was won by the late Richard Ellmann for "Oscar Wilde." Richard Wilbur's "New and Collected Poems" won the poetry prize, while Roger Reynolds' "Whispers' Out of Time" won for music.

## Serbs urged to settle in Kosovo

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia is offering homes and jobs with double pay to Serbs who settle in Kosovo in an apparent attempt to undermine the ethnic Albanian majority in the riot-torn province.

At least 22 Albanian demonstrators and two policemen died in the past week during violent protests against constitutional changes limiting Kosovo's autonomy within Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic.

The curbs, promoted by Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic, were to permit a crackdown on alleged Albanian nationalists whom Serbia accuses of driving 30,000 Serbs from their homes in Kosovo since 1981 separatist riots.

The Serbian population in Kosovo has fallen this century from over 400,000 to 200,000 while the Kosovo Albanians, with their high birth rate, now number 1.7 million.

The province, hit by the worst ethnic bloodshed since World War II, has remained calm for three days, with police and armoured cars still patrolling and troops going on exercise in a show of strength. But a strict curfew is in force.

Community offices in towns throughout Serbia this week sent out application forms, asking people interested in living in Kosovo to list their family and professional details.

"This has been organised at the

level of the republic," said an official at a district community office which distributed the forms in the Belgrade district of Senjak.

Television and local radio also broadcast details of the scheme, offering salaries twice as high as in other parts of Serbia, and guaranteed apartments, big incentives in a country with galloping inflation and a severe housing shortage.

The application form, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, was headed: "for persons and family members who are not in Kosovo but who would like to live and work in Kosovo."

It said applicants would be interviewed in the coming two months.

"The purpose is to identify people who used to live in Kosovo and want to go back or those who want to live there for the first time," said Toma Dejanovic, a spokesman for Serbia's Urban Planning Committee.

Kosovo is Yugoslavia's poorest

area, with 36 per cent unemployed and monthly pay averaging \$100.

Its population density and birth rates are the highest in the country. Fertile farmland is limited,

causing rivalry between Serbians and Albanian peasants for the best soil.

Both Serbs and Albanians leave Kosovo in the thousands every year in search of

prosperity.

## Column 10

Lobster escapes the claws of death

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — A lobster who escaped the jaws of death when a woman could not bring herself to eat him has found a home at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The 10.9-kilogramme crustacean called Clyde was the prize in a January supermarket promotion, but the contest winner decided against making a meal out of him and the Omaha Zoo took him temporarily. A special fund helped raise money to keep the lobster in Omaha. At one point, a man dressed as a lobster stood on a downtown street corner and asked for donations, and a radio station held a 28-hour fund-raising broadcast. Clyde was unveiled in his special \$6,300 saltwater tank Thursday. "Everything appears to be fine," aquarium supervisor Kathy Vires said. "He eats, he's active, he keeps his tail tucked. Those are all signs of a healthy lobster."

Mother uses son for burglaries

MOUNT HOLLY, New Jersey (AP) — A young mother used her three-year-old son to help burglarise homes, authorities say. Michelle Danser, 20, was charged with burglary, theft and endangering the welfare of a child. She was arraigned Wednesday and was jailed under \$10,000 bond, authorities said. Police said Danser, who was unemployed, lifted her toddler into the windows of at least four of the eight houses she burglarised so he could open a door for her. "Sometimes she would let him play in the yard while she was burglarising the house," said Police Lieutenant Paul Taliano. "He didn't know what was going on." The state's Division of Youth and Family Services gave custody of the boy to his maternal grandparents.

Gondoliers dump trash on city hall

VENICE (R) — Tourists watched in amazement as Venice's Gondoliers dumped canal rubbish in front of the city hall Wednesday for the second time in 24 hours to protest against the city's squalid appearance. On Sunday, about 60 Gondoliers toured the city in 30 boats collecting bottles, cans, fast food containers and other debris from the canals. Thousands of tourists in Venice for the Easter weekend photographed the Gondoliers as they dumped the garbage in front of the council's offices at ca' Rossetti. "In recent months, we've made numerous appeals to the authorities (to clean up the city), but they've done nothing," said Antonio Scarpa, spokesman for the Gondoliers for Venice Group.

Man pays thousands for Thatcher's bag

LONDON (AP) — A British businessman paid £2,000 (\$3,460) for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's well-travelled handbag at a charity auction last week. Dave Schafer, who outbid several others at Capital Radio's Help a London Child Auction, said he plans to put the beige leather bag on display at his shop in east London. The handbag has travelled with Thatcher to the Middle East, Far East and Australia. It was on her arm when she visited royal navy ships in the Gulf last summer. "I was determined I was going to get the bag," he said. "It is a lot of money but it is all in a good cause." Not to be outdone by Thatcher, opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock promised to brew tea for two and serve it with Welsh cakes baked by his wife, Glenys, in his House of Commons office.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER	
AMSTERDAM	08	43	17	Clear
ATHENS	08	46	22	73 Clear
BAHRAIN	15	59	60	Clear
BANGKOK	28	79	34	93 Clear
BELGRADE	15	51	27	Cloudy
CARACAS	12	54	24	76 Clear
CHICAGO	03	37	15	48 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	46	22	50 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	07	45	24	75 Cloudy
GENEVA	08	43	22	72 Clear
HONG KONG	70	79	23	77 Clear
ISTANBUL	09	55	15	61 Clear
LONDON	10	59	25	76 Clear
LOS ANGELES	13	85	28	79 Clear
MADRID	11	52	17	63 Rain
MECCA	17	63	34	33 Clear
MIAMI	22	71	27	80 Cloudy
MONTRÉAL	02	28	44	38 Rain
MOSCOW	01	30	63	37 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	15	61	23	94 Clear
NEW YORK	01	41	07	44 Cloud
PARIS	12	38	22	72 Clear
TOKYO	08	45	16	61 Rain
VIENNA	12	64	24	75 Clear

## 'And the Oscars go to' Rain Man, Hoffman and Foster

CANBERRA (R) — Halley's comet, the intriguing bright celestial mass seen from Earth every 75 to 76 years, may have come from another solar system, scientists said Friday.

"We have evidence that the make-up of Halley's comet differs from all other substances in our solar system," Bruce Peterson, an astronomer at Australia's Mount Stromlo Observatory, told Reuters.

Peterson said Halley's comet, a

reflective mass of gases million of kilometres long, may have been formed elsewhere in the galaxy billions of years after our solar system was formed.

Using a telescope at Mount Stromlo, near Canberra, the scientists measured the carbon ratios of the comet by studying a spectrum of the chemical cyanogen evaporating from the comet's surface.

They discovered that two forms of the element carbon, design-

ated as carbon 12 and carbon 13, were at a ratio of 35 to one in Halley's comet.

The ratio of carbon 12 to carbon 13 in all other solar objects which have ever been examined is virtually a constant 89 to one, Peterson said.

Halley's comet might have formed elsewhere in the Milky Way galaxy, billions of years after the ratios were frozen in our own solar system," Peterson said.

"Halley's comet may have

come close enough for our sun to gravitationally capture Halley's comet from outside the solar system," he said.

The scientist said the theory is plausible because Halley's comet orbits in the opposite direction from almost all other solar objects.

A second theory is that Halley's comet may have received less carbon 12 by being in a "distant region" of the gas cloud from which our solar system was formed 4.6 billion years ago.

Paul Yost, one of three senior officials who made a fact-finding trip to the spill site, said it was "almost unbelievable" that the ship strayed outside a 16-kilometre-wide shipping lane to run aground.

"This was not a treacherous area, not treacherous in the area where they ran aground," Yost said in Washington Thursday. "Your children could drive a tank up through it."

A blood test administered more than nine hours after the accident showed Hazelwood had a blood-alcohol level of 0.061.

Coast guard Commandant

art direction and costume design. Roger Rabbit won for film editing, sound effects and visual effects.

The Milagro Beanfield War won for best score and Mississippi Burning for cinematography. Bird won the Oscar for best sound, and Beetlejuice for makeup.

Named best song of the year was Carly Simon's Let the River Run from Working Girl. The academy could find only

three songs to nominate this year instead of the usual five, and didn't see fit to have them performed during the show.

The year's best foreign-language film was Denmark's The Conqueror a grim tale about an exploited farmer and his son.

With Wednesday's cere-

monies, the Academy dropped the traditional line "the winner is ..." in favour of "and the Oscar goes to ..." using the

nicknames the statuettes have acquired. The intent was to soften the sense of competition.

Hollywood's annual tribute to itself, televised live, moved to its usual plodding place and was burdened with heavy-handed production numbers.

The industry relied heavily on nostalgia, recruiting as presenters such old-time partners as

James Stewart and Kim Novak

and Bob Hope and Lucille

Ball.

The 1989 season followed a record year at